

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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STATEMENT OF PAUL CALABRESI, MD
For the Senate Cancer Coalition Hearing on the
National Cancer Legislation Advisory Committee Report

Senators Feinstein and Brownback:

I am unable to attend the October 10 hearing, and very much appreciate the opportunity to submit a written statement regarding NCLAC's recommendations in its report, *Conquering Cancer: A National Battle Plan to Eradicate Cancer in our Lifetime*.

I am a graduate of Yale University (BA, 1951 and MD, 1955), trained at Harvard and the National Cancer Institute, and a practicing medical oncologist at Rhode Island Hospital. I currently serve as Professor of Medicine and Chairman Emeritus of Brown University's Department of Medicine and Chairman of the Rhode Island Cancer Council. I am a Member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and a Master of the American College of Physicians. In 1991, I was appointed Chairman of the National Cancer Advisory Board by President George Bush, and in that capacity, chaired the panel that produced the 1994 *Cancer at a Crossroads* report to Congress that evaluated the national cancer program under statutory mandate of the National Cancer Act of 1971. I have also served on the President's Cancer Panel since my appointment in 1995, and co-authored the Panel's 1999 report on the national cancer program. It has been my pleasure to be a member of the National Cancer Legislation Advisory Committee for the past two years.

We have made outstanding progress in cancer research during the past 30 years, since the nation first declared war against cancer. Today, we are able to cure more than 50 percent of all patients with cancer, allowing approximately half of 1.3 million people, who will be diagnosed with cancer this year, to celebrate as long term survivors. Of the remaining 50 percent, we could cure or prevent half of these cases (another 25 percent) by applying, to all of the people, the knowledge we already have. To reduce mortality and suffering for the remaining 25 percent of patients afflicted with cancer, we need more research in order to develop new methods for early detection, symptom management, and therapeutic cures.

While cancer research continues to be the most promising strategy for the future eradication of this dreadful disease, we now have a tremendous opportunity and obligation to apply our current knowledge and developing research achievements to all of the people. In order to conquer cancer, we must move forward with a balanced program that offers a combination of continuing cancer research *and* appropriate application, that will result in optimal access and delivery of quality cancer prevention and care for everyone. The NCLAC report outlines twelve essential steps needed to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating cancer as a major health problem in the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your interest and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Calabresi, M.D.